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## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

In this department I have already spoken of Dr. Anna Hamilton's legacy and hopes for a new hospital, and have asked Dr. Hamilton to write for us her own story of what it means to her and what she hopes to do, but overburdened even before the war, she is now doubly so, and time evidently does not arrive for writing. So I am taking, without her knowledge, two or three of her past letters to me and am extracting from them some of what she says. I think she will pardon this, for my hope is to be able to get some help from among the friends of France, for her work.

I had told her that I thought a JOURNAL article, reprinted in some of the daily papers, might be useful, for although war relief is absorbing the energies of most people, yet there must also be some to whom the hopeful appeal of permanent, growing, vital good in training nurses and caring for patients will be stronger than the mournful appeal of relief which, when met, has but patched a part of the cruel, reckless destruction going on about us. Dr. Hamilton's bequest of land for a new hospital was to her, personally, that is, it was given by one of her own friends in recognition of her work and personality in the Maison de Santé Protestante and would not have been given had she not been there. She, therefore, feels the full responsibility, especially as she has had to fight for the legacy before she was finally sure of it.

BORDEAUX, 1915.

. . . . But I do long to be able to build a new hospital on the grounds which have been left to us by an elderly single woman—a lovely place out of town where the patients would be so well. The government has just notified me that we may take possession of the estate, and I have been several times there. I want to rent it so as not to have any expense while the war goes on. Afterwards I must find the money to build and I do not even know how that will be possible but I *must* manage it.

BORDEAUX, 1916.

. . . . I wanted to write and thank you for what you said about my wish to find money to create an ideal hospital in our lovely new place but my work is very hard now. . . . we have just double the number of patients as in peace times to care for, and no extra helpers as there were in the first year of war. . . . I am intensely interested in the American plan about voluntary aids. It is indeed most cleverly devised and will, in case of a war, prove most useful, I am sure. . . .

Offers by business men have twice been made, to buy the land which we have inherited. Much more money has been offered the second time, than the first, and some of our Directors think we should sell it, as they believe we shall never find enough money to take this hospital over there. They all admit that this house is much too small, that fifty years ago this hospital was in the country and is now crowded about by the town, the noise, the dust, the smells. The garden, even, is too small, the wards too full, no room for the nurses, who have to live in a house opposite, the dining room much too small, no room for anything! If our Committee could hope, as I do, that we shall surely find help if we look for it to build our new hospital they would want, as I do, to keep these beautiful grounds for our new buildings. For seven months now I have been responsible for our new estate "Bagatelle." I have been doing farming there and it has been very successful. We have had hay to sell and vegetables, fruit, chickens, eggs, rabbits, and pigeons, for our patients to eat. Estimating our products at their market value, our net profit at the end of September was over thirteen hundred francs. Those of the Administration who had wanted to sell were tongue-tied and the others pleased at the result, which will probably be much greater next year.

Those who are accustomed to the large sums spent for American hospitals, will easily see what a wonderful opportunity is within Dr. Hamilton's reach. Bordeaux will become, after the war, a great industrial and commercial center, and an ideal location for the amply-equipped hospital plant which might be placed on this new site. Already the careful and thorough training of the Bordeaux nurses is unsurpassed, and only hampered by outgrown and cramped facilities.

Dr. Hamilton has much to say in her letters of the Red Cross work and other volunteer nursing that is deeply interesting and informing. Those who know how keen and fine her critical faculty is, and how impersonal and scientifically unprejudiced her perceptive grasp and insight are, know that every word she says is literally and unconditionally exact. It is a temptation to quote her, and yet the sentimental war relief enthusiast would consider her very caustic and severe. Even among nurses one does not like to expose weaknesses of management in countries so sorely afflicted as those at war, and one has a feeling of consideration for governments so harassed. After all, the defects are exactly those we had at home to some extent during the war with Spain, and it is perfectly easy to see that they are inevitable under such circumstances. Governments must take help wherever they can get it, and all that they can get for nothing looks doubly good to them. Yet, as the time wears on, the thoroughly trained nurse, such as Dr. Hamilton turns out of her school, does finally get the recognition and the position that she should have, and public opinion does eventually decide correctly on the relative values of half and whole training. There is for a time a very demoralizing influence exerted on the regular

probationer who hears of volunteers being "trained" for six weeks under the Red Cross and having "nothing but interesting work to do," and who reads the encomiums showered upon these volunteers and sees them decorated with various honorable badges. However, this is transient, and it seems evident that, on the whole, the highest standards of nursing education will not be permanently injured by the war. After it, if nurses can but organize, and *if they will*, they can again set their educational ideals at the highest point.

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### THE PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL IN PORTO RICO

The much-needed new building for the Presbyterian Hospital in San Juan, Porto Rico, was dedicated on May 27, with the following program:

Doxology.

Invocation and Lord's Prayer. The Rev. James W. Countermine, D.D., San Juan, P. R.

Scripture Reading. The Rev. James A. McAllister, Mayaguez, P. R.

Music. Municipal Band of San Juan.

Foreword. Mrs. F. S. Bennett, President of the Woman's Board of Home Missions.

The Day of Small Beginnings. Grace Atkins Holmes, M.D.

Co-Workers. The Rev. Chas. L. Thompson, D.D., Secretary of the Board of Home Missions.

The Significance of the Presbyterian Hospital to San Juan and Porto Rico. The Hon. Arthur R. Yager, Governor of Porto Rico; The Hon. Martin Travieso, Secretary of Porto Rico; The Hon. Robert Todd, Mayor of San Juan; The Rev. Philo Drury, Ponce, Porto Rico.

Music. Municipal Band of San Juan.

The Hospital and the Medical Profession. Gabriel Villaronga M.D., Ponce, Porto Rico, President of the Medical Association; Lieut-Col. Bailey K. Ashford, M.D., San Juan, Porto Rico, Medical Corps of the Army, W. F. Lippitt, M.D., San Juan, Porto Rico., Director of Sanitation.

Music. Municipal Band of San Juan.

Dedication Address. The Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

The Commission. To the Hospital Staff.

Acceptance. E. Raymond Hildreth, M.D.; Miss Jennie Ordway.